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SPIES:

Powers' Story

Not only was the U-2's "destruct button" out of reach, pilot Francis Gary Powers has told Central Intelligence Agency interrogators, but he nearly failed to jump free. "While the plane was falling," he said, in effect, "I suddenly remembered how another pilot got out of a similar fix. He couldn't budge the jammed ejection mechanism, and pushed at the canopy. It gave way.

"I tried it and it worked."

All of this, and more, is embodied in a report that CIA chief John A. McCone is expected to deliver this week. Powers, what's more, said his Russian captors subjected him to no physical or mental cruelty. Astonishingly, he wasn't even asked about arrangements for landing in Norway and other countries.

Powers, in short, passed all CIA tests, including the lie detector. In spite of his open-court confession of spying, presumably he will collect the \$50,000-odd owed him under his contract.